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pletely out of the way and yet in the most convenient position for working. With this stage any desired length of traverse can be provided, but the ordinary stock pattern gives two and one-fourth inches.

The other stage is the one fitted to their "Bactil" microscope and might be described as a semi-detachable stage. The vertical movement is operated by a rack and pinion and the upper travelling plate is exactly like that of the plain stage of an ordinary microscope. The horizontal fitting is carried completely as a separate mechanism and is attached to the plate just referred to by means of two thumb-screws. When in position the object can be carried horizontally rather more than two inches. This stage is peculiarly convenient because it combines all the advantages of the best type of mechanical stage, and when the horizontal mechanism is removed the clear surface of an ordinary plain stage instrument is at once available with the added convenience of a vertical mechanical movement.

These are only two items from a catalogue, which comprises 178 pages, that is published by W. Watson & Sons, and which we are sure it would interest the majority of our readers to apply for and read. Messrs. Watson offer to send this catalogue free by mail to members of the American Microscopical Society who may apply for it.

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### ROSS MICROSCOPES

Ross microscopes have always been distinguished for possessing the essential principles of first-class instruments. Superior workmanship and strict attention to detail in construction, the results of long experience,—the firm having been established as far back as 1830,—have given them their universal reputation. Careful study of modern requirements has led to the production of the up-to-date Ross "Standard" model. It embraces the most recent ideas and many improvements not to be found in instruments of other manufacture. The "Standard," with two achromatic objectives, may be purchased at a price which is very moderate for a microscope of this type, while other objectives, focusing swing-out substage, condenser, mechanical stage, and other accessories, are readily added at any time, with equal efficiency, so that the same instrument can be subsequently used for the most advanced work.

Messrs. Ross, manufacturing opticians, of 111 New Bond Street,

London, England, will forward free by post, on application, a very concise little explanatory booklet.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

From a number of our members have come to the Secretary expressions showing a desire for a few pages in our Transactions of a less formal character where may be inserted brief notes on microscopical technique, modifications of microscopical apparatus, or on investigations not of so serious or extended nature that they seem to justify the preparation of a formal contribution. Especially has this desire been evident recently, since this volume has become the only publication in this country, of any kind, devoted to microscopy.

Moreover, it has seemed to us that much of good would accrue both to our members and to our advertisers if in such pages the latter could be offered the opportunity to call attention to new pieces of apparatus or new modifications of old, or to present other matter which would enable members, especially those more isolated, to keep in touch with the progress in microscopical appliances and methods.

Accordingly at the Sandusky meeting the Secretary was instructed to set aside a limited number of pages for brief notes on methods, on new apparatus, books, etc., to be contributed by members and advertisers. To both the invitation is given to contribute freely, but at the same time the request is made that the contributions be brief and to the point, that they be given in the spirit of helpfulness. To advertisers the suggestion is also made that to offer that which is essentially advertising matter will defeat the very end in view, that of bringing them into closest sympathy with the individual members of the Society. The generous support accorded by those who make use of our advertising pages is a very material aid in the publication of our Transactions, the success of which is vital to the welfare of the organization; every member should feel a personal interest in our advertisers, and a personal responsibility in the matter. Each one is performing a service for this Society when he bestows his patronage accordingly, and when in his dealings he makes it known that he is a member of this Society.